

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7286

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: FOUR KILOS OF HEROIN SEIZED IN JOINT THAI/HONG KONG POLICE
OPERATION

1. BANGKOK AND HONG KONG POLICE WORKING IN COOPERATION
ARRESTED FOUR SUSPECTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZED FOUR
KILOGRAMS OF NO. 3 HEROIN IN BANGKOK ON JANUARY 23. TWO
HONG KONG CHINESE, IDENTIFIED AS MISS LI YI WAN (20) AND
MR. CHIM NIUN (32), AND A THAI, SAMAN SRIPAKUL, WERE
ARRESTED AT THE TROCADERO HOTEL. THEY HAD IN THEIR
POSSESSION FOUR KILOS OF HEROIN AND A SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED
SUITCASE, APPARENTLY TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT THE NARCOTICS.
IN A SEPARATE RAID, POLICE ARRESTED A MALAYSIAN, LOO KWAN
KONG, AT THE VICTORY HOTEL. LOO IS ALLEGED TO BE THE MAN
WHO WAS ACTUALLY TO CARRY THE HEROIN TO AMSTERDAM.

2. THE OPERATION WAS CARRIED ON JOINTLY BY THE THAI AND
HONG KONG POLICE. TWO HONG KONG POLICE OFFICIALS CAME
TO BANGKOK EARLIER IN THE WEEK WITH INFORMATION ON THE
TRAFFICKING NETWORK. THE HONG KONG POLICE, SUPPORTED
BY THE BANGKOK METROPOLITAN NARCOTICS UNIT, WORKED IN
AN UNDERCOVER ROLE TO SNARE THE TRAFFICKERS.

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3. THE BANGKOK POST ON JANUARY 26 CARRIED A FRONT PAGE

AFP ARTICLE DATED HONG KONG THAT ATTRIBUTED THE SEIZURE TO A "NEW CLIMATE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NARCOTICS BUREAUS IN ASIAN COUNTRIES--PARTICULARLY HONG KONG AND THAILAND..." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THIS COOPERATION STEMMED IN PART FROM SEVERAL REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCES, THE LATEST OF WHICH WAS SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN JAKARTA LAST NOVEMBER.

4. COMMENT: CONTACTS MADE BETWEEN THAI AND HONG KONG POLICE AT REGIONAL CONFERENCES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS CERTAINLY PLAYED A ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THE JOINT SEIZURE ON JANUARY 23. PETER LAW, COUSELOR FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE OPERATION. WE HOPE THIS SUCCESS WILL INITIATE A TREND TOWARDS MORE JOINT OPERATIONS. MASTERS

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